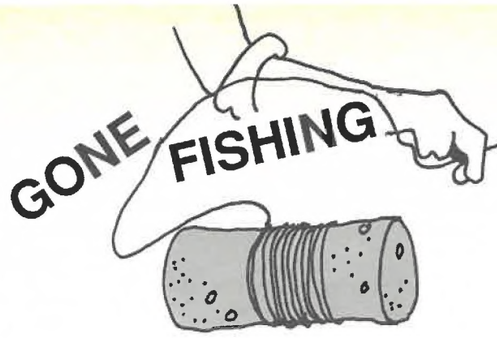


Evan Cocker's "Gone Fishing" but not for fish!

Captain Evan Cocker, C.A. is the Parish Evangelist in the Parish of Port Lincoln, South Australia. Port Lincoln, the largest fishing port in the southern hemisphere and renown also for it's big game fishing, is situated on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula.

The Cocker Family, Evan, his wife, Elaine and two sons, David 14, Heath 13, live just outside Port Lincoln overlooking Proper Bay. "It is a beautiful place" says Elaine Cocker, "the climate is very dry in summer with sometimes as little as 10 inches of rain a year. It's not as hot as Adelaide and there's usually a sea breeze. In our spare time we like, as a family, to go out driving in the country and have picnics. Sometimes we go fishing, though Heath is really the only keen fisherman."

The Cockers are used to changes in climate. Evan and Elaine come from Tasmania, where prior to coming to Church Army Evan worked for Comalco as a caster. Since Commissioning in 1983, Evan, with his family, has served in Scone N.S.W., Manuka (Canberra) and now in Port Lincoln.

Fr. 'Ted' Doncaster, Rector of Port Lincoln tells how this came about. "For some four years the Parish of Port Lincoln had been praying for and talking about another full-time worker, and towards the end of 1986 an approach was made to the Church Army, with the consent of the Bishop of Willochra. This resulted in the appointment of Captain Evan Cocker, C.A. early in 1987 as Parish

Captain Evan and Mrs Elaine Cocker

Evangelist, when with his family, he moved halfway across the Continent and all the way down the Eyre Peninsula.

Since then, he has gone all the way for Christ in his ministry among us, doing all the usual work that arises in a parish with a population of about 14,000; pioneering a chaplaincy in the high school (little did we know at the time that he was the very first in South Australia!); giving a great lead in the Primary Schools' Christian seminars each term, as well as sharing in the work of the Minister's Fraternal (of which he is Secretary this year); the Eyre Peninsula Deanery and the Diocesan Education Committee. He also acts as a Locum when I am away on various Diocesan duties and holidays. It has been a "many and varied" type of ministry and we are grateful to the Lord for the quick response of the Church Army to our cry of "come over and help us."

Evan says his school chaplaincy work is on two levels. "I have a ministry to the children. That is, I just talk to them in the school yard. They come to me, I'm there if they want

David (in bunk) and Heath

Elaine Cocker on Isiah the Scooter

Chaplaincy Work with students

to talk to me. You can't push them too hard, but there are opportunities. Then, I also minister to the teachers, talking to them in their tea breaks and off duty periods. This is a pastoral care support role. Just being there, available and when needed.

I go into the high schools on behalf of the Ministers' Fraternal. Chaplains are appointed by the heads of the various churches in South Australia, in conjunction with the State and Local School Authorities."

Both Evan and Elaine teach scripture in Primary School. This involves about 1,500 children over a one week period each term. This is done working with an inter-denominational team using a mission-style programme. Elaine keeps mobile by riding her motor scooter, "Isaiah".

The Cockers enjoy team ministry. Elaine is given to singing, and both Evan and Elaine play guitars and often lead in worship through praise and music. Together they run the local C.E.B.S. (Church of England Boys' Society) branch.

Having been in secretarial work before she married Evan, Elaine also helps greatly on the organisational side of his work.

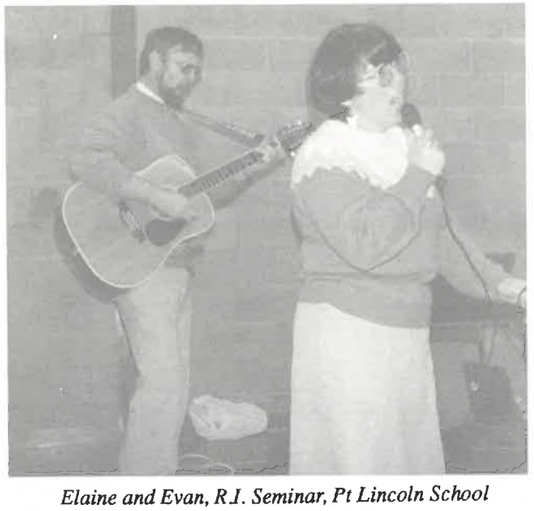
As the Parish Educational Officer, Evan has had the opportunity to run various programmes, including the Church Army course 'Dynamic Christian Living' which was well received. He also runs scripture training seminars.

A widespread parish like Port Lincoln which has four worship centres gives Evan ample experience in most aspects of ministry. He preaches regularly at the various centres, and on occasions outside the parish too. Hospital visiting and visiting people in need have priority in his week.

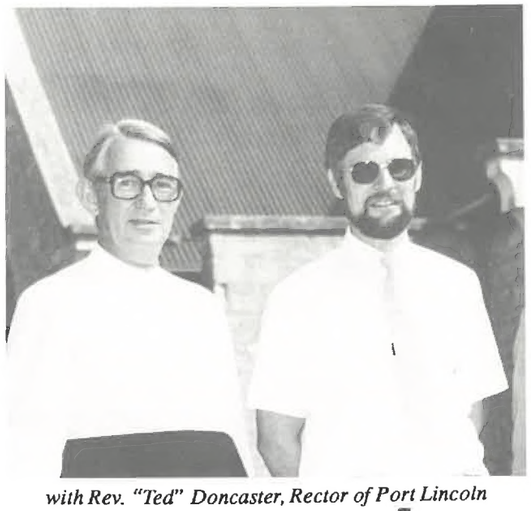
Like all Church Army Officers and other people in full time ministry, Evan Cocker does not know what the future holds or where the Lord will lead him.

You can however be sure that he will still be "fishing".

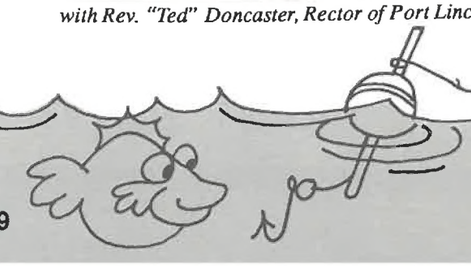
Mark 1: 17 "Come follow me" said Jesus,
"and I will make you fishers of Men."



Elaine and Evan, R.I. Seminar, Pt Lincoln School



with Rev. "Ted" Doncaster, Rector of Port Lincoln



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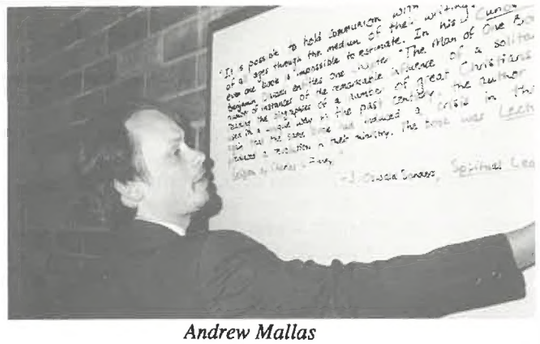
BOOK REVIEW

FATHER MAKE US ONE
by Floyd McClung (Kingsway Publications 1987).

As I read this book in the light of my own ministry, I found myself quite overwhelmed by the many relevant issues brought into the light. Love, forgiveness, humility, submission, leadership, confrontation: issues we all face in our relationships with other Christians—issues which must be addressed and worked through.

In his work with Youth With A Mission (Y.W.A.M.) in the red-light district of Amsterdam, Floyd McClung has seen many examples of the healing power of Christ's love. The underlying theme of McClung's book is, that in spite of our past failures, real unity in the Body of Christ is possible. Not only is it possible, but it is a powerful witness in winning the world for Jesus (John 17, 21).

McClung is by no means Utopian; he knows that real unity is not easy to come by in the Church of Christ. What about all those unresolved issues: Baptism, the nuclear arms race, speaking in tongues, etc.? The writer confronts what really is at stake here—our own attitudes. "If our personal opinions hinder us from relating to a fellow Christian, then we're forced to conclude that our opinions are more important to us than fellowship with another brother or sister in Christ."



Andrew Mallas

Variety amongst Christian members must be encouraged, not condemned; however, love does not mean forsaking a commitment to essential biblical truths. In discussing just how unity is achieved, McClung wisely avoids the extremes of liberal ecumenism and legalistic fundamentalism. His approach is very balanced.

For me personally, Father Make Us One was a deeply refreshing book. I highly recommend it as valuable and balanced teaching to all who love the Lord and are open to loving others as He loves us.

ANDREW MALLAS.

Andrew Mallas is a second year student at the Church Army College, Belrose. This book is available at the Church Army Bookshop.

Stumped

Next the slab

First clear the block

Up goes the frame

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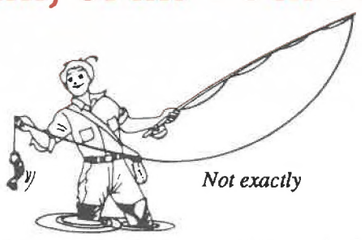
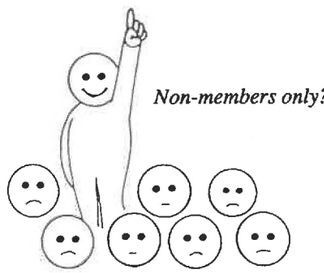


Not exactly

After waiting expectantly for several hours, the fisherman's wife was pleased to see her husband wearily trudging back towards their little cottage. "Did you catch anything?" was her excited question as soon as he crossed the threshold. "Not exactly," came the guarded reply, "but I think I influenced quite a few!"

The success of evangelism cannot be gauged by the "size of the catch". Indeed, by manipulating people's emotions, by leaving out some of the more demanding aspects of the Christian gospel, or by promising quick solutions to virtually all of life's problems, the so-called successful evangelist can achieve amazing results. It is unlikely, however, that many of those caught with such a bait will stay around for very long.

Perhaps it is all too easy to make fun of "EASY OUTREACH INC.—SUCCESSFUL RESULTS GUARANTEED EVERY TIME". It is unfortunate that to avoid such excesses, some Churches appear to go to the opposite extreme. Many of us do not *really* believe newcomers will be regularly added to our Church as they come to faith in Christ. We would deny this of course. But in our heart of hearts . . . ? A consultation on evangelism held in 1983 concluded as a result of research:



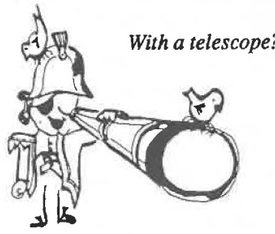
Non-members only?

"Adults in our congregation do not believe adults will be converted in the congregation".

One result is that we can concentrate on things that are important to the insiders. The design and furnishing of our buildings. The beat or beauty of our music. The correctness and orthodoxy of our doctrices. The sense of belonging or fellowship among members. The proliferation of meetings of all shapes and sizes. The lifestyle and behaviour of believers. The list becomes endless.

All of these matters are important. But they must never become ends in themselves. A previous Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, is alleged to have said "The Church is the only Society which exists for the benefit of the non-members". Even worship itself is only worthy of such a name if it acknowledges the WORTH of God. He is worth-y to be acknowledged and loved by all—and that includes those who at present are unaware of him. The worship-ers are missing the point, if they forget or ignore the sadness in the heart of their Lord, and the yearning he still has for those who are missing out on the very best things in this life (and the next).

Along with the hymn and prayer books handed out at the Church door, one sometimes feels as if a telescope is given to help view an aloof and distant God. Elsewhere, a microscope is given to study oneself in minute detail.



With a telescope?

Again, a magnifying glass may be given so as to get the right perspective on all that is wrong in the world. Perhaps it would be better to receive bi-focal spectacles at every Church Service. To look UP to see our Lord, and to look OUT at others for whom Christ also died. Hector Espinoza says: "Worship should function as the means by which the people of God are built up in the Spirit in order to move out into the unredeemed world with an authentic, effective witness to the reality of God and his great love made known to us in Jesus Christ". Or, as Howard Snyder says: "The two primary concerns of the early Church were the proclamation of the gospel and the edification of the Christian community. Evangelism sprang from the community, and the community grew through its witness. Evangelism was not merely something that individual Christians did, rather it was the natural result of the presence and influence of the Christian community in the world. The community gave credibility to the verbal proclamation".

Another possible result from failing to believe in the conversion of adults, is for Churches to put virtually all their resources and hopes into ministry with children and young people. It is often remarked that "Young people are the Church of tomorrow". The trouble is, this has been said for several generations now! There seems little indication that tomorrow will be any different in this way from all our yesterdays. But still the fond cry goes out "Let's have a Youth Worker, that's what we need".

Of course young people are important, and helping them to know the forgiveness and power of Christ in their lives is vital. This is certainly a real part of Church Army ministry. But only because young people are part of our total society today, and not because they are seen merely as pew fodder for tomorrow. It is an unreal escapism from the present to hope that by concentrating on what might happen later if all goes well, we will somehow be absolved from the responsibility of tackling needs and opportunities already existing on our doorstep. Charles Dickens created a Mr Micawber who lived in "the constant expectation of something turning up". It is highly undesirable for any Church to adopt such a man as its patron Saint.

Many will know the jingle:

Jam, jam tomorrow—
Jam yesterday,
We always have jam tomorrow,
But never jam today.

The God who revealed himself to Moses, said his name

THE COMMISSION TO MISSION

JOHN GELDING

My son came home from Beach Mission fired up. He had had his first taste of sharing the good news about Jesus to kids his age on the South Coast. Away for 10 days and although dishevelled and tired, he walked through the front door and said with a quiet, but sure smile, "Dad, I'm going to be an evangelist!" And since then he has not stopped sharing his faith within our congregation, his school, and in his social life. And it's all such a lot of fun.

A few days after this incident, my eyes fell on some words of Jesus in John 20 : 21. In one of those resurrection appearances, Jesus said to those who followed Him, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

So many Christians in the pew think that it is only those who have been ordained to be a priest or pastor who have the commission to mission. But I want you to consider the thought that when you declared your faith in Jesus Christ in the RITE OF CONFIRMATION, it was an ordination to mission. Laying his hands upon you and praying for the Holy Spirit to increase in you daily, the Bishop and congregation went on to pray that you might "joyfully serve the Lord in the work of the gospel to which He has called us." And in the Second Order the Bishop says, by way of exhortation and encouragement, that you "are called to share with others, by word and example, the love of Christ and His gospel of reconciliation and hope."

So there you have it—in both the words of Jesus and our Prayer Book. Christians are called and ordained to share the glorious gospel of Christ. And what a fantastic privilege that is!

To encourage people to share their faith, Church leaders need to be models themselves in that they are **seen** to be offering the good news through preaching, teaching and socialising. When they are encouraged to be bold in their witness, the flock will have an example to follow.

Such leaders should invite certain personalities to join them by observing how it is done in a natural and warm way. After an initial period of encouragement, they then go out and seek to build bridges between people and the Lord. The Church bookstall can be of help here by providing motivational material for would-be sharers-of-the-faith. Leaders also need to provide glossy, attractive material for Christian workers. Audio cassettes and videos are also available to assist in training and various Theological colleges and Bible Schools offer training. Every avenue must be researched and studied "to equip the saints for ministry". And periodically, Church leaders should meet with the teams for prayer, study, assessment and mutual encouragement. May I suggest in every Parish Council Agenda, at least half to three-quarters of an hour be given each month to this subject for it is surely the number one priority on Christ's agenda for His world.

Avenues in the local Parish abound and the possibilities are numerous, exciting and rewarding. Maybe it starts right in the pew where a Christian becomes responsible for another's spiritual welfare and growth. Together they can explore and share the Lord's love for them as individuals and then for their families.

The Church family on Sunday can be encouraged to open their homes, say on a Sunday for lunch once a month, or an evening, and meet with two or three families in the neighbourhood and have some fun together. And what about asking parents of Sunday School children or confirmees' parents to a small get-together and build bridges. Then there are those who will be married or have children baptised. And what of those who have lost a loved one through death? If your Church did a count of the number of people **who come to us** for ministry in a twelve month period, I think you would be staggered! You would have enough souls to keep a minimum of fifty parishioners going for years! And as we have found, it is an exciting and rewarding work. As a pastor, I get wedding couples to meet lay-people for an "interview" which has paid many spiritual "dividends" as in a casual, warm, accepting atmosphere, Christians share the good news with non-Church goers!

And has your congregation ever thought of using the radio for evangelism? Our Church has a one-hour programme every Sunday on our regional radio which reaches an estimated 40,000 people. Why not make a few enquiries for you may be surprised that your local municipal council will welcome you with open arms.

What exciting days for the local congregation! And describing the work of the local church, St. Paul says in Ephesians 4, God called "some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people (that is you) for works of service . . ." Mission belongs to the local church. To YOU, my friend. And I do not know of a greater calling or a more satisfying and fulfilling role than sharing the good news about Jesus Christ.

JOHN GELDING,
Rector,
Anne's Anglican Church, Ryde.

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Message FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

BEEN BOOKED YET?

Captain Gilbert Page C.A.

Some years ago I often needed to visit parish clergy in connection with mission work. There was one thing I always found interesting and helpful. A glance along the bookshelves in the study, usually spoke volumes about the person—if you will forgive the pun. What kind of books were being used to inform and stimulate the ministry? Did it appear they were being consulted regularly? Was anything new there, or did everything just date back years ago to College days?

Perhaps that was all very unfair. After all, not everyone is a great reader. Wisdom is certainly not confined to the printed page. But what would you expect from someone with a surname like mine!

If a Christian is to learn more about God, the regular and systematic study of Scripture is certainly a necessary part of the spiritual diet. There are several groups that publish reasonably priced booklets to give help in this daily task. Other books are designed to give more detailed information and instruction about the Bible. I always find it encouraging to read about the lives of other Christians, and to learn what the Church is doing in other parts of Australia—and indeed the world. In these days when strange sects and cults abound, it is important to study just what the Church does teach, and why these beliefs are held. This helps avoid the danger of going up an individualistic and misguided "theological No Through Road".

A well written book can be not only interesting, but will enable a Christian to grow spiritually, and be more equipped to carry out what God wants him or her to do. But choose carefully. Some books almost seem designed to induce a kind of "deep sleep therapy", rather than excite and lead to action!

For many years now Church Army has been involved in the distribution of good Christian literature. May we book you in?

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JOHN'S OTHER HAT

Captain John McKim wears two hats. One as Dean of Students at the Church Army College of Evangelism (four-fifths of his time) and the other as a staff member of the General Board of Religious Education (the other fifth of his time).

As Dean of Students John is responsible for the daily life of the College, supervision of worship and the organising of Field Training. He also takes his share of both full time and part time courses and along with Federal Office and other College Staff is involved in Teaching weekends, Missions and Deputation work.

In his other hat with G.B.R.E., John travels Australia as Co-ordinator of the Anglican Youth Unit. This involves helping to organise national events such as Youth Synod, Consultations with youth officers at a Diocesan level and resource and advice for developing new or existing ministries with young people in Anglican Parishes. There are also regular invitations to preach or teach at various parish, diocesan or provincial youth 'Happenings', e.g. as main speaker each day at Brisbane Diocese's Youth Gathering in January and Victoria's Provincial Youth Event. Forward planning by the Youth Unit includes developing a more effective national network for greater sharing of resources and co-operation in training youth leaders and developing new structures that will get Australian Anglican Youth more involved in Mission. On the present drawing board is a feasibility study for a National Youth Workers' Conference and also the unit is considering ways in which young people of the Australian Anglican Church can be adequately prepared to make a contribution to the World Council of Churches Assembly to be held in Canberra in 1991.

John recently organised a national youth consultation at Banyo Theological Seminary in Brisbane. Representatives attended from three quarters of the Dioceses in Australia. The program explored issues of concern to diocesan youth officers and co-ordinators and how the National Anglican Youth Unit can overcome some of those concerns. Issues considered included isolation, what is youth ministry, the value of youth ministry and doing ministry not just FOR young people but WITH young people. Also identified was the need to raise consciousness in the church about youth workers and to encourage the vocation of youth ministry.

And where does this fit in with John's ministry as a Lay Evangelist? In answer to this John says "Young people in the church have more often engaged in oureach and evangelism in spite of the general failure of other age groups to show much concern and activity in their most vital area of mission. Any planning of future youth ministry in Australia will have to involve better empowerlng of young people to do this within the life of the church and at the same time help them to enthuse their peers and other age groups to do this work more effectively."

Among the youth themselves there is a growing concern that young people brought into the church should be nurtured, discipled and then seen taking their proper place in the life of the church at every level."

These things have long been the concern of Church Army right back to Wilson Carlisle. While Church Army wants to be out in the front line helping young people where they are and bringing them into relationship with Christ and his church, we need to equally provide the Church with expertise in areas of integrating these young people into the Body and helping them in turn to find their ministry and have adequate support to fulfil it."

My role co-ordinating the Youth Unit puts me in a unique position through which Church Army can make a special contribution to these things on a national level.

STOP PRESS

GO FOR GOROKAN

The Go for Gorokan Outreach Weekend, 6th and 7th August, has gone but will not be forgotten!

Over 20 walkers (some only acted as pacemakers for a few kms) took part in the 65 kms walk to Gorokan on Saturday, 6th August. All the walkers reached Gosford (half-way) and three walkers made the full distance. They were Charles Hume, Church Army Student (N.Z.), Phil Bailey, Church Warden, Gorokan, and Peter Butler, a last-minute entrant from Darwin.

Saturday night celebrations saw over 250 people dining "first-class" at the Charmhaven Indoor Cricket Centre. They were entertained during dinner by some very talented Gorokan parishioners of all ages.

Prior to dinner the Church Army cricket team thrashed a Gorokan team 121 v 27. In fairness to Gorokan, we admit that due to an administrative hiccup, we took on the junior team, hence the score.

On the Sunday, all the Church Services were well attended. At the Special Outreach Service in the evening, Captain John McKim, C.A., Dean of Students, Church Army College, was the preacher. At this Service, Captain Gilbert Page, National Director for Church Army, presented the parish a Lectern Edition Good News Bible.

As a result of the weekend mission, several people made first time commitments. Many more made re-commitments.

Peter Hewitt, the Church Army student in the Gorokan parish, reports that many young people enquired about full-time ministry and showed particular interest in Church Army. He also says "That he and the Rector, Rev. Graham McLeod, will be involved in a lot of on-going ministry and follow-up from the Go for Gorokan Mission."

On behalf of all the Church Army personnel and others, we thank the Gorokan parish for their enthusiasm and hospitality. May God bless them as they reach out in His name. GO, GO, GO, GOROKAN !!!

Several hundred dollars were raised through the Walk-a-thon but final figures are not yet available.